

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 IO-10 /074 W

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R 201035Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8798

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: BONN GROUP CONSULTATION

REF: STATE 58094

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASING BONN GROUP ACTIVITIES. AMBASSADOR CONVEYED OUR VIEWS TO BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS MARCH 19 AND ASKED THEM TO COMMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HAVING IN MIND ESPECIALLY OUR INTEREST IN PUTTING PROPOSED NEW ARRANGEMENTS INTO OPERATION IN TIME TO PRODUCE PAPER FOR NEXT NATO MINISTERIAL. WE WILL REPORT BRITISH AND FRENCH VIEWS WHEN WE RECEIVE THEM. WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO COMMENT ON ONE OR TWO ASPECTS RAISED REFTTEL EVEN BEFORE WE HAVE BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMENTS, SINCE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WILL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE COMPLEX WE ARE DEALING WITH.

2. WE THINK IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT,
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UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW ARRANGEMENTS, A VERY RADICAL

REORIENTATION OF THE PRESENT SCOPE OF BONN GROUP ACTIVITIES. AS DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES AWARE, THE MINUTIAE OF BONN GROUP ACTIVITIES ON ALMOST ANY ISSUE (UN DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK, BRUECKMANN, EC VOCATIONAL CENTER) ARE BOTH IMPORTANT AND TIME CONSUMING. BONN GROUP WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS A LARGE SHARE OF ITS WORK ON SUCH MATTERS. IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DO THE BONN GROUP GOOD TO BE ABLE TO STAND BACK FROM THE DETAILS AND TRY TO CHART BROADER DIRECTIONS. SUCH AN EFFORT WILL, HOWEVER, BE INCREMENTAL TO THE PRESENT WORK OF THE BONN GROUP' NOT A SUBSTITUTE. THIS IN NO WAY REDUCES THE VALUE OF THE PROPOSED NEW COURSE. IT IS SIMPLY A PRACTICAL FACT THAT WE WILL HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND. ADDITIONALLY, IF ABRASIMOV SHOULD SHOW AN INTEREST IN FORMAL QUADRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE FQP, WE COULD FACE A SITUATION WHERE THE OPERATIONAL VOLUME OF BONN GROUP WORK WOULD RISE MEASURABLY.

3. IT WILL BE CLEAR TO ALL CONCERNED, IF THERE IS TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT TO PUT THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSALS BEFORE THE BONN GROUP AS A WHOLE, THAT AN IMPORTANT EFFECT (IF NOT THE BASIC PURPOSE) IS TO EXERCISE A CLOSER DEGREE OF CONTROL ON FRG ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO BERLIN. THIS WILL BE A TOUCHY POINT FOR THE FRG BECAUSE, ULTIMATELY, DOMESTIC GERMAN POLITICS ARE INVOLVED. IT WILL ALSO BE A TOUCHY ISSUE BETWEEN THE THREE POWERS AND THE FRG. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH SHARE THE VIEW THAT CLOSE MONITORING OF PROPOSED FRG ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO BERLIN IS DESIRABLE. THE BRITISH AND FRENCH WILL, HOWEVER, NOT BE ANXIOUS TO BE TAGGED AS THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TIGHTENING UP PROCESS. THEY MAY BE WILLING TO JOIN US IN AN APPROACH TO THE GERMANS, BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY MAKE SURE THE GERMANS UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS WE, NOT THEY, WHO ARE BASICALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INITIATIVE. THERE ARE SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN THIS SITUATION WHICH WE WILL WANT TO WATCH CLOSELY.

4. WE ARE NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT IS INTENDED IN PARA 5 REFTEL BY THE POINT THAT CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLICITED FROM ALL ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN ESTABLISHMENT WITH INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IDEA THAT THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS MENTIONED SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AS IN FACT THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. WE ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S PRIMARY INTENTION IS TO ENSURE THAT THESE VARIOUS VIEWS ARE PROPERLY TAKEN ACCOUNT OF, RATHER THAN THAT ANY NEW INSTITUTIONALIZED ARRANGEMENTS ARE ENVISAGED OR THAT,

FOR EXAMPLE, FORMAL WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE
REQUESTED FROM OUTSIDE THE BONN GROUP ITSELF.
HILLENBRAND

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